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Economic and Social Council

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Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
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Item 8 of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Austria and Greece: draft resolution

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Combating impunity for crimes committed against journalists and media workers

The Economic and Social Council,

Deeply concerned about attacks and violence, such as torture, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention, as well as intimidation and harassment, against journalists and media workers,

Taking note with appreciation of the *Global Study on Homicide 2013: Trends, Contexts, Data* of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which reports that there have been 984 documented cases of killings of journalists since 1992, with over 600 of them occurring in the last 10 years, and draws attention to the fact that there is often impunity for many of the abuses against journalists,

Recognizing that impunity for attacks against journalists and media workers constitutes one of the main challenges to strengthening the safety of journalists and media workers,

Expressing concern that there is a growing threat to the safety of journalists posed by non-State actors, including terrorist groups and criminal organizations,

* E/CN.15/2014/1.

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Reaffirming that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person,

Mindful that the right to freedom of opinion and expression is a human right guaranteed to all in accordance with article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] and acknowledging the particular role of journalists and media workers on matters of public interest, including reporting on crime,

Welcoming the adoption of General Assembly resolution 68/163 of 18 December 2013 on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, Human Rights Council resolution 21/12 of 27 September 2012 on the safety of journalists, and Security Council resolution 1738 (2006) of 23 December 2006,

Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression[3] and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions,[4] submitted to the Human Rights Council at its twentieth session, as well as of the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on good practices on the safety of journalists,[5] submitted to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session,

Recalling the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, endorsed by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on 13 April 2012, which calls, inter alia, for the strengthening of the specific contribution of relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to enhancing the safety of journalists and combating impunity for crimes committed against them,

Acknowledging the importance of the proclamation by the General Assembly of 2 November as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists in order to raise awareness of the issue of impunity,

Noting the good practices of different countries aimed at the protection of journalists,

Stressing the importance of well-functioning, efficient and effective criminal justice systems in order to investigate, prosecute with due process and punish acts of violence against journalists and media workers,

Recalling the adoption of General Assembly resolution 67/184 of 20 December 2012 on follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in which the Assembly decided, inter alia, that the main theme of the Thirteenth Congress would be "Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation",

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[1] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[2] General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] A/HRC/20/17.

[4] A/HRC/20/22 and Corr.1.

[5] A/HRC/24/23.

1. *Stresses* the important contribution that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime can make to combating impunity for crimes committed against journalists and media workers by providing to Member States, upon request and as a matter of high priority, technical cooperation and advisory services with a view to strengthening the capacity of national criminal justice systems to investigate, prosecute and punish such crimes;

2. *Also stresses* the important role that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice can take in combating impunity for crimes committed against journalists and media workers by raising awareness and as a forum for the exchange of experience and good practices among crime prevention and criminal justice stakeholders from all regions on the safety of journalists;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of strengthening the coordination of the specific contributions that relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, can make to combating impunity for crimes committed against journalists and media workers, given the cross-cutting nature of the issue;

4. *Invites* the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which will be held in Doha from 12 to 19 April 2015, to consider the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity under item 6 of the provisional agenda, entitled "National approaches to public participation in strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice", as proposed in the discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings and for the Thirteenth Congress,[6] of which the General Assembly took note with appreciation in its resolution 68/185 of 18 December 2013;

5. *Encourages* the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to invite high-level representatives from other relevant United Nations entities, agencies, funds and programmes, including, in particular, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as stakeholders from the media and civil society, to present their activities and exchange views on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within available extrabudgetary resources, not excluding the use of existing resources from the regular budget of the Office, and in consultation with States and other relevant stakeholders, to prepare a report on criminal justice measures suited to contributing to the safety of journalists, and to present that report to the Thirteenth Congress.

[6] A/CONF.222/PM.1.